

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1821

AN ACT

To award a congressional gold medal to Dr. Dorothy Height in recognition of her many contributions to the Nation.

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1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4 The Congress makes the following findings:

1 (1) Dr. Dorothy Irene Height was born March
2 24, 1912, to James Edward Height and Fannie
3 (Borroughs) Height in Richmond, Virginia and
4 raised in Rankin, Pennsylvania.

5 (2) Dr. Height is recognized as one of the pre-
6 eminent social and civil rights activists of her time,
7 particularly in the struggle for equality, social jus-
8 tice, and human rights for all peoples.

9 (3) Beginning as a civil rights advocate in the
10 1930s, she soon gained prominence through her tire-
11 less efforts to promote interracial schooling, to reg-
12 ister and educate voters, and to increase the visi-
13 bility and status of women in our society.

14 (4) She has labored to provide hope for inner-
15 city children and their families, and she can claim
16 responsibility for many of the advances made by
17 women and African-Americans over the course of
18 this century.

19 (5) Her public career spans over 65 years.

20 (6) Dr. Height was a valued consultant on
21 human and civil rights issues to First Lady Eleanor
22 Roosevelt and she encouraged President Eisenhower
23 to desegregate the Nation's schools and President
24 Johnson to appoint African-American women to sub-
25 Cabinet posts.

1 (7) Dr. Height has been President of the Na-
2 tional Council of Negro Women (NCNW) since
3 1957, a position to which she was appointed upon
4 the retirement of Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, one of
5 the most influential African-American women in
6 United States history.

7 (8) The National Council of Negro Women is
8 currently the umbrella organization for 250 local
9 groups and 38 national groups engaged in economic
10 development and women's issues.

11 (9) Under Dr. Height's leadership, the National
12 Council of Negro Women implemented a number of
13 new and innovative programs and initiatives, includ-
14 ing the following:

15 (A) Operation Woman Power, a project to
16 expand business ownership by women and to
17 provide funds for vocational training.

18 (B) Leadership training for African-Amer-
19 ican women in the rural South.

20 (C) The Black Family Reunion, a nation-
21 wide annual gathering to encourage, renew and
22 celebrate the concept of not only the Black fam-
23 ily but all families.

1 (D) The Women’s Center for Education
2 and Career Advancement to empower minority
3 women in nontraditional careers.

4 (E) The Bethune Museum and Archives, a
5 museum devoted to African-American women’s
6 history.

7 (10) Dr. Height has been at the forefront of
8 AIDS education, both nationally and internationally;
9 under her direction, the National Council of Negro
10 Women established offices in West Africa and South
11 Africa and worked to improve the conditions of
12 women in the developing world.

13 (11) Dr. Height has been central in the success
14 of 2 other influential women’s organizations, as fol-
15 lows:

16 (A) As president and executive board mem-
17 ber of Delta Sigma Theta, Dr. Height left the
18 sorority more efficient and globally focused with
19 a centralized headquarters.

20 (B) Her work with the Young Women’s
21 Christian Association (YWCA) led to its inte-
22 gration and more active participation in the
23 civil rights movement.

24 (12) As a member of the “Big Six” civil rights
25 leaders with Whitney Young, A. Phillip Randolph,

1 Martin Luther King, Jr., James Farmer, and Roy
2 Wilkins, Dr. Height was the only female at the table
3 when the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and oth-
4 ers made plans for the civil rights movement.

5 (13) Dr. Height is the recipient of many
6 awards and accolades for her efforts on behalf of
7 women's rights, including the following:

8 (A) The Spingarn Award, the NAACP's
9 highest honor for civil rights contributions.

10 (B) The Presidential Medal of Freedom
11 awarded by President Clinton.

12 (C) The John F. Kennedy Memorial
13 Award from the National Council of Jewish
14 Women.

15 (D) The Ministerial Interfaith Association
16 Award for her contributions to interfaith, inter-
17 racial, and ecumenical movements for over 30
18 years.

19 (E) The Lovejoy Award, the highest rec-
20 ognition by the Grand Lodge of the Benevolent
21 and Protective Order of Elks of the World for
22 outstanding contributions to human relations.

23 (F) The Ladies Home Journal Woman of
24 the Year Award in recognition for her work for
25 human rights.

1 (G) The William L. Dawson Award pre-
2 sented by the Congressional Black Caucus for
3 decades of public service to people of color and
4 particularly women.

5 (H) The Citizens Medal Award for distin-
6 guished service presented by President Reagan.

7 (I) The Franklin Delano Roosevelt Free-
8 dom Medal awarded by the Franklin and Elea-
9 nor Roosevelt Institute.

10 (14) Dr. Dorothy Height has established a last-
11 ing legacy of public service that has been an inval-
12 able contribution to the progress of this Nation.

13 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

14 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of
15 the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tem-
16 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements
17 for the presentation, on behalf of the Congress, to Dr.
18 Dorothy Irene Height a gold medal of appropriate design
19 in recognition of her many contributions to the Nation.

20 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purpose of the
21 presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary
22 of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the
23 “Secretary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable em-
24 blems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the
25 Secretary.

1 **SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

2 Under such regulations as the Secretary may pre-
3 scribe, the Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in
4 bronze of the gold medals struck under section 2 at a price
5 sufficient to cover the costs of the medals, including labor,
6 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

7 **SEC. 4. NATIONAL MEDALS.**

8 The medals struck under this Act are national medals
9 for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

10 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS; PROCEEDS**
11 **OF SALE.**

12 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
13 hereby authorized to be charged against the United States
14 Mint Public Enterprise Fund an amount not to exceed
15 \$30,000 to pay for the cost of the medal authorized under
16 section 2.

17 (b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the
18 sale of duplicate bronze medals under section 3 shall be
19 deposited in the United States Mint Public Enterprise
20 Fund.

Passed the House of Representatives October 15,
2003.

Attest:

Clerk.